

FALL 2020

Alumni Columns

Northwestern State University Magazine





Dr. Chris Maggio
1985, 1991
President
Northwestern State
University

My Fellow Alumni:

It would be an understatement to say that the past months have been challenging. After a summer of meticulous planning, modifying operations and developing protocols, Northwestern State welcomed students back to campus for the fall semester, not knowing that just a few days later, we would be faced with another blow delivered by Hurricane Laura.

But, as always, the NSU community showed tremendous fortitude in responding quickly to our fellow Louisianians in need. Student groups organized drives to collect water, hygiene kits, clean-up supplies and other items to deliver to southwest Louisiana. We reached out to colleagues at McNeese State, a sister school in the University of Louisiana System, to offer resources to students such as access to computer labs, WiFi, libraries and other services, as they continue their studies.

This has been an extremely difficult time for so many. Thank you for your patience, understanding and kind words of support as we have had to make difficult decisions for the advancement of our university and ensure the continuation of learning and research. All decisions are driven by concerns for the health, safety and wellbeing of students, faculty and visitors. We will continue to monitor and work with local and state officials and will be flexible in our delivery approach to academics and student services. Our NSU family has stayed strong and resilient and continues to persevere.

Please know that you, your family and loved ones continue to be in my thought and prayers as we maneuver through these turbulent times.



Dr. Drake Owens
2004, 2005
Assistant Vice
President of External
Affairs for University
Advancement

Dear Alumni:

It seems like ages ago that I was able to visit with alumni and friends in person. Although the Alumni and Development staff have not been able to host many annual events and gatherings, they have developed creative strategies to be flexible and thoughtful as everyone's situation evolves.

I sincerely thank everyone who contributed to the NSU Foundation's COVID-19 Relief Fund. That was a tremendous help to students who were unable to continue jobs in retail, hospitality and other industries due to closures and restrictions. More recently, since Hurricane Laura devastated the heel of our state, we established the Hurricane Laura Relief Fund to assist students from southwest Louisiana who lost their homes, were displaced and faced additional hardships in continuing their education. You cannot imagine how valuable every contribution is to these grateful students. We will continue to collaborate with external partners to respond to emerging needs.

I hope that as you read this you are safe and well. Please know that we are staying true to our mission of investing in the people and programs that make our university strong. Thank you for all you do in supporting us.

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1st Vice President..... Patricia Hrapmann, New Orleans, 1973, 1978
2nd Vice President..... Leah Sherman Middlebrook,
Dallas, 1986, 2016
Secretary Virginia Monceret, New Roads, 2001
Treasurer Nikki Ceaser Small, Dallas, Texas, 2007

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NSU President..... Dr. Chris Maggio, 1985, 1991
Vice President for External Affairs..... Jerry Pierce, 1961
Assistant Vice President of External Affairs
for University Advancement..... Drake Owens, 2004, 2005

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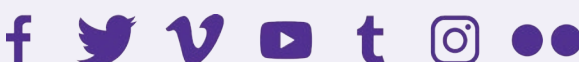
Dr. P. Cade Brumley New Orleans, 2002
Jerry Brungart Natchitoches, 1969, 1971
Tommy Chester Natchitoches, 1969
Caron Chester Coleman Natchitoches, 2000
Shade Dufrene Baton Rouge, 1999, 2003
Allen Evans Shreveport, 1989
John Evans Natchitoches, 1992
LaTasha Gray-Grant Mansfield, Texas, 2007
Dr. Hayward Hargrove Black Mountain, N.C., 1964
Trey Hill Carencro, 1985
Emilie King Shreveport, 2017
Matt Koury Leesville, 1995
Jeremy LaCombe New Roads, 1999
Lane Luckie Tyler, Texas, 2008
Kim Martin Lake Charles, 1988
Dr. Lisa Landry Mathews Shreveport, 1992
Kip Patrick Washington, DC, 1995
Michael Prudhomme Natchez, 1984
J. Scott Repp McKinney, Texas, 1989
Joe Robertson DeQuincy, 1990
Mark Spikes League City, Texas, 1991
Joseph B. Stamey Natchitoches, 1983
Crystal Hemphill Stewart Natchitoches, 1997, 2003
Glenn Talbert Shreveport, 1964
Taylor Townsend Natchitoches, 1986
Jim Villard Alexandria, 1983

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

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Foundation establishes Hurricane Laura Relief Fund

The Northwestern State University Foundation created a Hurricane Laura Relief Fund to help NSU students, faculty and staff with financial assistance in the aftermath of Hurricane Laura, which struck central Louisiana as a Category 2 storm Aug. 27.

"Similar to our efforts to help members of the NSU family during the COVID-19 pandemic, the NSU Foundation created this relief fund to help those in the NSU community who have been directly impacted by Hurricane Laura and have demonstrable financial insecurity," said Director of Development Jill Bankston.

Alumni, supporters, businesses and individuals are invited to donate to the fund through the NSU Foundation website at <https://www.northwesternstatealumni.com/hurricane-fund>. Donors can also text to give by texting NSUSTORM to 41444. Some corporations are providing grants for hurricane assistance, and the NSU Foundation is preparing applications for grant funds as well.

An online application form has been established at <https://www.northwesternstatealumni.com/hurricane-application/>. Applicants should include details, receipts and the amount of the request of expenses, damages and loss of income related to Hurricane Laura.

The NSU Foundation has established a committee to research submitted requests, determine an appropriate amount to be distributed to the applicant and expedite funds in a time-sensitive manner to best serve the people of Northwestern State.

The NSU Foundation is a non-profit organization with a primary mission of supporting Northwestern State University and its constituents with continued success.



NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
FOUNDATION
NATCHITOCHE, LOUISIANA

Despite pandemic, NSU tops enrollment records for Fall 2020

Northwestern State University reported a record enrollment this fall of 11,447, an increase of 547 students, or 5 percent, over last year's total of 10,900.

Dr. Chris Maggio, who has served as president of Northwestern since 2017 during a period when the university reached the four highest enrollments in its 136-year history, said the current record registration "is remarkable and especially gratifying in the midst of the global pandemic."

Maggio said this year's enrollment increase "reflects both the extraordinary effectiveness of the faculty and staff in continuing to provide quality instruction and services during the health crisis and the resilience and perseverance of our students in overcoming monumental challenges."

Northwestern's all-time high student registration goes against numerous projections of substantial enrollment losses at colleges and universities nationwide.

Beginning this fall, the university is providing in-person instruction, online classes and hybrid classes offering both in-person and virtual learning. Extensive procedures and protocols have also been established to help protect the health and safety of NSU students, faculty and staff and the community.

The NSU president also noted that the university has worked diligently to assist students who have faced financial difficulties because of job losses, business closures and other economic issues that have negatively affected them and their families during the pandemic.

"Our Office of Financial Aid has provided assistance to numerous students to help them find ways to continue their education in these difficult times," he said. "Alumni and friends of the university have generously contributed to a COVID-19 relief fund at the NSU Foundation that has helped a number of our students. This financial support made the difference in many students being able to continue their education at the university."



On the Cover: Matt Courville of Opelousas, top photo, participated in Freshman Connection 2.0, a series of socially-distanced outdoor activities. Student volunteers collected and sorted Hurricane Laura relief supplies as part of the Cowboy Collection initiative to deliver items to faculty, staff and students at storm-ravaged McNeese State in Lake Charles, a sister school in the University of Louisiana System.

Correction

The photo included with a profile of Lamar Bryant in the summer edition of Alumni Columns was not correct and did not depict Bryant. The photo pictured the inaugural recipient of an honor named for Bryant, the Lamar Bryant National Pan-Hellenic Council of the Year Award. The award recognizes Bryant's advocacy for fraternal organizations. Bryant was a key player in uniting the Multicultural Greek Council and the National Pan-Hellenic Council with the Interfraternity Council and the National Panhellenic Council. Bryant is associate dean of students at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

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NSU rallies to assist with hurricane relief through food distribution, Cowboy Collection initiative



Former NSU All-American offensive lineman Marcus Spears, left, joined NSU players and staff Sept. 16 to help the Food Bank of Louisiana distribute food to Natchitoches Parish families affected by Hurricane Laura.



Sigma Nu Fraternity members Tyler Stephens, Ayden Butler, Zach White, Peyton Branton, Drew Zito and Cameron Wedgeworth shopped for water and other essentials that were delivered to Lake Charles.

Donovan Duvernay had yet to take a snap for the Northwestern State football team and had been part of the university community for no more than two months. But on a humid September morning, Duvernay was one of several dozen Demons braving the heat to help the Food Bank of Central Louisiana distribute food for those affected by Hurricane Laura, which reached Natchitoches as a Category 2 storm Aug. 27.

"This community has brought me in – this football team has brought me in," said Duvernay, a graduate transfer cornerback from the University of Texas. "I just want to help out any way I can to give back to them for what they've done for me."

Former Demon All-American offensive lineman and N-Club Hall of Famer Marcus Spears helped coordinate the giveaway, which saw cars snake their way through the parking lot between Prather Coliseum and the Jack Fisher Tennis Complex before finding their way to the Collins Pavilion where the Demons and food bank volunteers loaded up families with water, meat, non-perishable items and fresh produce.

Head coach Brad Laird and his staff were there as well with Laird acting as a traffic director, summoning the cars to the distribution point once volunteers determined the amount of goods for each family. Players and graduate managers worked both sides of the line, setting up assembly lines to stock each arriving vehicle.

"It's great to come out and support this community," said junior cornerback Shemar Bartholomew, a New Orleans native. "It's great to be able to come out and help them."

Spears played a pivotal role in helping bring the food drive to campus. He wanted not only to assist the area he calls his "second home," but to give the NSU football players a teachable moment even though their fall schedule has been postponed.

"When you look at what's going on with COVID-19 and the aftermath of Hurricane Laura, there are families in this community who are still recovering," Laird said. "To be able to put a smile on the faces in the aftermath of what we have gone through is immeasurable. In three hours, we were able to feed 322 families. For them to be able to come through with what they have gone through, to put a smile on their face is a credit to the Food Bank of Central Louisiana, Marcus Spears and our players and coaches."

It was just one of numerous projects put in motion by NSU students to help those affected by Hurricane Laura. Working with administrators at McNeese State University, NSU students rallied to help their friends and neighbors to the south by organizing a campus-wide drive to collect packaged undergarments, cleaning supplies and toiletry items. The Cowboy Collection initiative drew participation from athletes, Greek organizations, Alumni and Development, Housing personnel, Office of Student Activities, Student Government Association, Spirit of Northwestern, ROTC, individual academic colleges and departments and others to set up drop-off locations, arrange transportation for delivery and organize teams to unload and sort items.

"The McNeese State campus was severely damaged, and many faculty, staff and students lost everything," said Reatha Cox, director of Student Affairs. "We were in communication with McNeese officials on how the NSU family can support McNeese. Once they had a few weeks to try and put order to chaos, it was time for us to step up and help our neighbors."



Kappa Sigma brothers Tony Arnold, Jordan Redman, Noah Joffrion, Connor Balthazar, Keaton Burnum, Collin Milton and Wes Carnahan delivered supplies to First United Methodist Church of Lake Charles.

NSU served as SWEPCO basecamp during Laura aftermath

Northwestern State University served as a basecamp and staging area to utility crews from around the United States and Canada starting Sept. 1 as linemen traveled to Louisiana to restore power to storm-battered areas in the aftermath of Hurricane Laura. Thousands of people across the state were without power since Laura made landfall in Cameron as a Category 4 storm late Wednesday, Aug. 26 and early Thursday, Aug. 27.

Logistics were facilitated through Storm Services LLC, in cooperation with regional service provider Southwestern Electric Power Company. Storm Services offers complete mobile infrastructure and disaster services and specializes in providing logistics for large numbers of workers who are temporarily relocated and require housing, food, water, laundry and sanitary facilities when a natural disaster or regional emergency occurs. The basecamp is one of eight currently up and running in Louisiana.

SWEPCO began wrapping up recovery in the Shreveport-Bossier Aug. 30-31 and relocated its staging area at CenturyLink Center to Northwestern State.

A huge dining tent was erected in NSU's main commuter parking lot in the center of campus with dozens of mobile sleep trailers lined up in parking lots near university residence halls for the crews that worked 16-hour days. The sleep trailers can accommodate up to 30 workers each. Fleets of utility work trucks were parked at Prather Coliseum and workers are bused to and from the housing and dining facilities to start and end their shifts.

The Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts also coordinated to house linemen and other workers in nearby Caddo Hall.

"SWEPCO contacted NSU and the Louisiana School about using our campus to facilitate their mobilization," said Jennifer Kelly, director of University Affairs. "There is nowhere



Pictured is an aerial view of utility trucks parked in the Prather Coliseum parking lot. Workers were bused to and from the trucks to a commuter parking lot for housing, dining, laundry and other services.

else in Natchitoches Parish, the heart of SWEPCO's Valley District, where they could park trucks and set up services for the workers."

The dining facility fed about 800 workers for several days. The crews were prepared hot meals served in an air-conditioned facility while also maintaining social distancing and COVID-19 safety protocols.

"With so many people across the state without power, we were happy to offer assistance to those who were working non-stop to restore power to residents and businesses," said NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio. NSU had suspended classes through Tuesday, Sept. 8, which freed up the large parking lots for the use of the basecamp. Caddo Hall was available as LSMSA is holding virtual classes this semester due to COVID-19.

Louisiana Public Service Commissioner Foster Campbell (1969) toured the basecamp with Maggio and Kelly.

SWEPCO also assisted Northwestern with their campus clean-up process after the storm blew down trees and power lines, Kelly said.



SWEPCO President Malcolm Smoak spoke during a joint press conference hosted by the city of Natchitoches and Natchitoches Parish Government where officials discussed ongoing hurricane recovery efforts in the region, including the restoration of power and other services. The press conference took place near a temporary basecamp on the NSU campus, visible in the background, where about 800 linemen from around the country were housed as they worked around the clock to restore power to affected areas. Also joining the press conference were, from left, Col. Ken Baillie, Louisiana National Guard; City of Natchitoches Fire Chief John Wynn, Natchitoches Parish President John Richmond, Natchitoches Police Chief Mickey Dove, Louisiana Public Service Commissioner Foster Campbell, Natchitoches Mayor Ronnie Williams and NSU's Director of University Affairs Jennifer Kelly.

Burrell named dean at North Central University-Minneapolis



LaToya Jones Burrell

LaToya Jones Burrell (JD, MBA) accepted an offer in June to serve as dean of Graduate Education and Accreditation at North Central University, a Christian university in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

"Since February, she has given excellent interim leadership to the College of Graduate and Professional Education, while continuing to serve in her role as dean of Academic Assessment and Accreditation and associate

professor of business," said Greg Leeper, vice president for Academic Affairs. "Over these past months, it became clear that Professor Burrell was the individual to lead our graduate studies area into the future as we expand and deepen our academic offerings."

In the new restructured role, Burrell will give leadership in the College of Graduate and Professional Education and the area of university accreditation. She will also retain her appointment as associate professor in the College of Business and Technology, teaching a reduced load and advising students. Burrell joined the faculty at North Central University in 2015.

She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with honors at Northwestern State in 2005. She went on to earn her law degree from Southern University Law Center, graduating in the top of her class. During law school, she was involved in several organizations, including the Moot Court Board, the Journal of Race, Gender & Poverty and the American Trial Lawyers Association's Mock trial team. She has practiced law for several years and is licensed to practice law in both Louisiana and Minnesota. Her practice areas have included bankruptcy, personal injury, workers compensation, mass torts and complex litigation.

Burrell also earned a master's degree in business administration at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she earned a perfect 4.0 and received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award.

She has served as an academic counselor and adjunct professor of law at Southern University Law Center and as an adjunct professor at Mitchell Hamline School of Law and at Hamline University in the Legal Studies Department. Additionally, she has served as a career strategist at the University of St. Thomas, School of Law. She has a passion for teaching, coaching and mentoring others.

At Northwestern State, she was a Freshman Connector, serving as Lead Connector in 2004, and was for 3-1/2 years an NSU Ambassador, a student recruiter employed by the Admissions Office. She attended NSU as a Presidential Honors Scholarship recipient and was on the 2004 and 2005 Homecoming Honor Court. She was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Purple Jackets, Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society, Phi Kappa Phi, Order of Omega and Blue Key

International. She identified Marcus Jones and Reatha Cox as special mentors during her undergraduate days.

"I value my NSU experience," Burrell said. "My experiences at NSU are paramount to who I am today."

Burrell and her husband Gregory have two sons, Grayson and Garrison. She lives in Minneapolis and loves spending time with her family.

Dukes named dean of Texas Tech University Libraries



Earnstein Dukes

Earnstein Dukes (1975), who has served in various roles within the [Texas Tech University Libraries](#) over the past 18 years, began her new position as dean of University Libraries on Aug. 1.

Dukes previously served as interim dean of the University Libraries. She accepted the position of systems librarian at [Texas Tech University](#) in 2002 and in September of that year was appointed associate dean in charge of user experience, resources management and library systems.

Dukes earned her bachelor's degree from Northwestern State and master's degree in library science from Clark Atlanta University in Georgia, with additional coursework in public administration. Her professional career began at the University of Memphis, where she held positions as cataloger/serials librarian and assistant head of cataloging as well as interim head of cataloging. She also was a consultant for information resources with the Center for Research on Women at the University of Memphis.

She subsequently accepted a position at the University of Texas at Dallas, where she held the positions of monographs cataloger and senior librarian in charge of library automation and led the implementation of the first library management system. Dukes also served as head of automation at the Fort Worth Public Library for two years and worked at the College Center for Library Automation in Tallahassee, Florida, for nine years, where she held the positions of library database specialist, database coordinator and website coordinator.

Dukes is a member of the American Library Association, serving in various leadership roles in the organization. In addition, she is an active member of the Texas Library Association (TLA). She served as secretary/treasurer of the TLA Digital Libraries Interest Group in 2004-05, was a member of the TLA Awards Committee in 2012-13, and was a member of the TLA Diversity Committee from 2013-16. She was selected by TLA as librarian of the month in 2013.

Dukes served on the Amigos Library Services Fellowship Committee, along with numerous committees within the University Libraries and across the Texas Tech campus. She has volunteered with Court-Appointed Special Advocates since 2011 and has been a mentor with [Mentor Tech](#) since 2002.

Thomas will serve as provost of OCCC

Dr. Jeremy Thomas was recently named provost at Oklahoma City Community College. He also serves the college as vice president for student affairs, and his expanded role as provost will allow Thomas to oversee both the student and academic operations of the college. Thomas will oversee the operations, programming and resource allocations for the college.

Oklahoma City Community College enrolls over 17,000 students annually. Thousands more are served in non-credit classes and programs. The college has more than 60 fields of study and offers associate degrees, certifications and leadership opportunities.

Thomas earned a Bachelor of General Studies with a music minor in 1997. He was a trumpet player and was a member of the Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band, the NSU Jazz Orchestra, Pep Band and Concert Band along with membership in Kappa Kappa Psi, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and Pi Kappa Phi.

After earning his bachelor's at NSU, Thomas was the National Chapter Field Representative for Kappa Kappa Psi, National Honorary Band Fraternity. According to Thomas, this job "gave me a love for everything student related."

He had the opportunity to return to Northwestern as the admissions coordinator in the Louisiana Scholars' College, before moving to University College as an academic advisor and instructor. Thomas later earned a Master's of Education from NSU, a Graduate Certificate in Academic Advising from Kansas State University and a Doctor of Education from Grambling State University.



Dr. Jeremy Thomas



Paula Callender

Callender earns Presidential Award for Excellence in STEM teaching

Paula Shuford Callender, biology teacher at Natchitoches Central High School, was named a recipient of the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) in Washington, D.C. The PAEMST is the highest award given by the U.S. Government to kindergarten through 12th grade teachers of mathematics and science, including computer science. Awardees are selected from schools in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, as well as several United States territories and commonwealths.

Teachers are selected based on their distinction in the classroom and dedication to improving science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education.

Callender is certified in biology and in general science (grades six-12), chemistry and physics. Callender became a National Board Certified Teacher in Early Adolescence Science in 2007 and continues to hold this certification. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Health and Human Performance at NSU in 2001 and Instructional Coaching Certification from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 2015. Last year she added Teacher Mentor to her certification and is currently pursuing her M.Ed. in educational leadership.

Callender has been a teacher consultant for the NSU Writing Project since 2006, served as the program's project technology liaison for two years and has presented at professional development workshops at the state level and national education scene.

Richie retires as clerk of court/judicial administrator for La. 2nd Circuit Court of Appeal

The Second Circuit Court of Appeal congratulated **Lillian Evans Richie** on her retirement from her position as Clerk of Court and Judicial Administrator. A 1977 graduate of Northwestern State, Richie received her juris doctorate degree from Paul M. Hebert Law Center, Louisiana State University, in 1981. Lillian (still Evans at the time) joined this Court's Central Staff at its inception in 1982, having previously worked as a staff attorney at the Third Circuit. After joining her husband Vernon Richie in the practice of law in 1986, Lillian returned to work in this Court's Central Staff in 1999. She continued in that capacity until her appointment as Clerk of Court and Judicial Administrator in the fall of 2009.

Richie is a dedicated member of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association, Louisiana State Bar Association, Shreveport Bar Association and the Women's Section of the Shreveport Bar Association. In February 2015, she earned a Certificate in Judicial Administration from Michigan State University through the Louisiana Court Administrators Association and online courses.

During her tenure as the Second Circuit Clerk of Court and Judicial Administrator, Richie has been an active member of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks, having served as past Awards Committee Chair and Mentor Chair of the Louisiana Court Administrators Association.



Lillian Evans Richie

Spotlights

Dr. Logan C. Hampton (1988), president of Lane College, was appointed to the State Capitol Commission West Tennessee citizen seat by Tennessee Governor Bill Lee. The State Capitol Commission develops plans and programs for the preservation of the Tennessee State Capitol, as well as the Bicentennial Mall, its monuments and other permanent fixtures in the park.

"Dr. Hampton is a thoughtful leader of a respected Tennessee institution and I am pleased to appoint him to the State Capitol Commission," said Gov. Lee. "I thank him for accepting this role and his willingness to serve his fellow Tennesseans."

Hampton has served Lane College, a private historically black college associated with the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and located in Jackson, Tennessee, since 2014.

He received his doctorate of higher education from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, received a master's degree in student personnel services from Northwestern State University in and a bachelor's degree in biology from Arkansas Tech University. He also is a graduate of the Harvard Institute of Management and Leadership in Education. Before UALR, Hampton held positions at Texas A&M University, Texas Christian University and the University of Central Arkansas.

Prior to Lane College, Hampton served in numerous student services capacities at UALR. His most recent appointment at UALR was vice provost for Student Affairs. In that position, Hampton served as the chief student affairs officer and led the student development and student life programs, including judicial affairs, budgetary and administrative services. In addition to working as a higher education administrator, Hampton was a member of the Board of Trustees for Arkansas Baptist College.



Heather Olson

Heather Olson (1999) was promoted from assistant principal to principal of Broussard Middle School in Lafayette Parish. She has 21 years of experience of education in Lafayette and Iberia parishes, including 18 years teaching and three in administration.

Olson said her goal is to "provide an inclusive, caring and rigorous learning environment that engages students and challenges them

to grow academically, socially, emotionally and creatively to reach their full potential."

While at Edgar Martin Middle School she was named Teacher of the Year and District Teacher of the Year in 2013-14. She was also named Teacher of the Year at Broussard Middle in 2017-18.

In addition, she is a contributing author of the book titled "Strengthening Mathematical Reasoning Among Middle School Students with Hidden or Unmet Potential."

Olson holds a Bachelor of Arts in both special education and elementary education from Northwestern State University, a Master of Education in educational technology and leadership from McNeese State University and a certification in educational leadership from Northwestern State.

DeRidder native **Dr. Erin Bardin (2003)** returned home to open Bardin Dermatology in her hometown July 1.

Bardin is a graduate of DeRidder High School. She earned her undergraduate degree at Northwestern State University. From there she attended Med School at LSU Med School in New Orleans. She went on to do her first residency in Baton Rouge.

Bardin is board certified in both internal medicine and dermatology. She completed a residency in both departments of medicine.

Bardin and her family lived in Fairhope, Alabama, for seven years prior to returning to DeRidder. She said that coming home was always part of her plan.

"All along I knew I wanted to come home and have my own practice, that was always the goal," Bardin said.

Bardin credited her mom Sunshine Bardin and growing up in a health care environment as to why she decided to be a doctor.

"All along I knew I wanted to come home and have my own practice, that was always the goal."

"I always knew I wanted to be a doctor. Probably because mom was a nurse and I grew up at Beauregard Memorial Hospital, and I was around all of those doctors," Bardin said.

"My mom always told me 'If you go into medicine you need to be a boss,'" laughed Bardin.

Her family and friends influenced her decisions to come home.



Dr. Erin Bardin

"We are so close to our family and friends and when we found ourselves driving to Louisiana every weekend we decided it was time to make a change. Then when we started our family, we wanted them to be close to their grandparents and grow up in a small town," she said.

Bardin is the daughter of Kade and Sunshine Bardin and sister to Devin Bardin and Hunter Bardin. Together, Kade and Hunter own and operate the local business Bardin Vending. Devin is a successful lawyer in Baton Rouge.

Dr. Bardin is married with one little girl and another baby due soon.

Brian W. Henderson was named the new director of annual giving and alumni engagement at the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Arkansas, beginning his new duties Aug. 3.

A 2002 graduate of Ozarks, Henderson has worked in higher education since 2007 and has been at the University of Arkansas since 2013, where he served as the director of employer relations and student placement in the College of Engineering.

At Ozarks, Henderson will manage the day-to-day operations of all annual giving, athletic giving and alumni engagement initiatives, including donor research and identification, cultivation, solicitation and stewardship elements of the University's fundraising cycle. He will also oversee alumni engagement and alumni programming.

"I am thrilled to be joining the Ozarks family," Henderson said. "I have a deep passion for the University of the Ozarks and the Clarksville community and feel this is a perfect place for my faith and work to mesh in showing God's love to others. This opportunity is more than a just a job to me. My wife and all of her family are from Clarksville and I have numerous family ties to the area as well. I look forward to building new relationships with Ozarks alumni and, more importantly, I look forward to connecting with alumni that I have lost contact with over the years. Ozarks is a special place and I look forward to working closely with our donors and alumni to make it even more special for future generations."

"I have more than 12 years of higher education experience and in my wildest dreams would have never thought returning to Ozarks would be a possibility. I am so thankful for this opportunity and look forward to advancing Ozarks mission and leading the annual fund and alumni engagement office."



Brian Henderson

Prior to joining University of Arkansas, Henderson was the director of Student Services for the College of Business at UA-Little Rock from 2009 to 2012. He also worked at Arkansas Tech University from 2007 to 2009 in several positions, including career development specialist/instructor and director of intramural sports and recreation.

A native of Berryville, Arkansas, Henderson was a basketball standout at Ozarks, earning team MVP and team captain honors in 2002. After graduating from Ozarks, he went on to earn a master's degree in health and human performance from Northwestern State in 2004.

Henderson and his wife, Jaye, have two sons, Hayes, 8, and Harris, 4. Jaye, a native of Clarksville and professor of nursing at University of Arkansas, recently accepted a new teaching position at Arkansas Tech University.

Henderson's hobbies include, spending time with family, traveling, playing sports with his boys, golfing and lying on the beach listening to music when not in Arkansas.

Louisiana's current Elementary Principal of the Year **Lisa McKee Burns**, principal at W.T. Lewis Elementary, was selected as a National Distinguished Principal and will be inducted into the 2020 class this fall in Washington, D.C.

A Bossier Parish educator for 23 years, Burns has served as one of the school leaders at W.T. Lewis for 12 years. Maintaining a standard of excellence, the school has earned an "A" rating each year of her principalship, and in 2018 W.T. Lewis was recognized as a Top Gains School and an Equity Honoree.

Recognized in her community as a passionate and innovative leader, Burns was chosen to represent Louisiana in the NDP program for making school a place where children not only reach high levels of success, but where they are loved, supported and surrounded by inspired and empowered educators who work together to help every child succeed.

Burns earned a bachelor's degree in education at NSU in 1997 and a master's in education with emphasis on technology in 2005 and completed a master's in educational leadership at LSU-Shreveport in 2008. As a student, Burns was a Freshman Connector, Demon Dazzler and president of Phi Mu.



Lisa Burns



SPOTLIGHTS continued on page 8



Dr. Wendi Palermo

Dr. Wendi Palermo was appointed by the governor to serve on the Louisiana State Board of Nursing. The Board's mission is to safeguard the life and health of Louisiana citizens by assuring that individuals practicing as registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses are competent and safe.

Palermo is the executive director of Nursing and Healthcare Initiatives for the

Louisiana Community and Technical College System. She has over 15 years of full-time experience in higher education at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

Palermo earned an Associate Degree in Nursing in 1999 and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2002. She was a full-time member of the nursing faculty for nine years and is currently an adjunct in the Master of Science in Nursing and Doctor of Nursing Practice programs at NSU. She continued her education and earned a Master of Science in Nursing from McNeese State University in 2004 and a Ph.D. in nursing research from Southern University in 2011. Her early research focused on vulnerable populations, specifically, infant mortality. She developed and served as the director of the NSU Leesville-Ft. Polk Cribs for Kids program and donated portable cribs to area families for five years to prevent co-sleeping and promote a healthy sleep environment. She presented her program locally, regionally and nationally.

Currently, she serves on the board of directors for the Beauregard Parish Pregnancy Care Center, Southwest Louisiana Area Health Education Center and is the vice chair of the Lake Charles District Nurses Association.

Palermo's current research is focused on bridging classroom to clinical practice by the use of simulation. She has been awarded the Board of Regents Health Works Commission grant for three years in partnership with Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University.

Most recently, Palermo served as dean of Nursing and Allied Health at SOWELA Technical Community college from 2015-2019 where she is credited with opening new nursing and allied health programs and earning programmatic accreditation in record time.

She has been married to her college sweetheart, Kent, for 21 years and they have 2 beautiful daughters.



Mark Van Benthuyzen

Mark Van Benthuyzen retired Aug. 31 as manager at the House of Raeford Farms poultry complex Arcadia division. Van Benthuyzen joined the company in 2006, after serving with Conagra and Pilgrim's Pride for 27 years.

Van Benthuyzen earned a degree in business administration and accounting at NSU in 1978. During his 41-year career in the poultry industry, he was an active member of the Louisiana Poultry Federation. He also has been an important part of the Arcadia complex's local House of Raeford Farms FLOCK non-profit team, reaching those in need with product donations, monetary contributions and volunteer work.



Rev. Amy Meaux

Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux (1997) has been appointed the first female dean and rector of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Little Rock, Arkansas, where she plans to concentrate on racial reconciliation and community outreach. She is the 21st person and first woman to fill that role in the church's 136-year history. Meaux and her husband Jared, who writes software for a living, moved to Little Rock from Danville, Kentucky.

Meaux was born in Beaufort, South Carolina, moved to North Carolina in second grade and to Mandeville during high school. After completing a bachelor of arts in English and sociology at the Louisiana Scholars' College, she considered law school, but realized she was drawn to seminary instead. Prior to seminary, she worked at an Episcopal school in Metairie where she was responsible for pre-K through fifth grade teaching religion to that age group. She began studies at the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas, in 1999, shortly after she and Jared were married. She graduated from seminary in May 2002 and became associate rector at Trinity Episcopal Church in New Orleans. Two years later, she was called to St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Dallas, the largest Episcopal church in the country, where during her time there, she became associate rector for children, youth and families and was responsible for ministries to anyone from pre-birth to graduating high school, including programming for mother's day out, a preschool program and children's and youth ministries.

In 2011, Meaux took a position at Trinity Episcopal Church in Danville. This past September, the family moved to Little Rock.



UPike band director named his district's KMEA Teacher of the Year

University of Pikeville's new director of bands recently hit the high notes with the Kentucky Music Educators Association.

Trevor Bailey accepted the positions as UPike's director of bands and faculty-in-residence this year, after serving as the university's assistant director of bands in 2019. Recently, Bailey was chosen as KMEA's Dist. 9 College/University Teacher of the Year.

"It was a pleasant surprise," Bailey said. "I worked really hard last year to really go out to the district, the community and to the region just to promote music education. It was a humbling experience to be recognized by the members of the KMEA Dist. 9."

Bailey received his bachelor's degree in music performance from Northwestern State in 2011 and he earned a Master of Music Education degree from the University of Nevada, Reno. Before starting at UPike, Bailey served as a graduate teaching assistant for the band program at the University of Alabama and served as conductor of the university band and doctoral conducting associate for the Alabama Wind Ensemble, among other things.

Bailey wanted to become a music teacher, he said, after being inspired by his mother, Charlotte Bailey, who is a public school teacher, and his eighth grade middle school band director, Carol Lupton. Bailey said he took inspiration from them to pursue a career in music education.

"They were both very supportive of me, and they both still are today," Bailey said. "They are major influences in my life."

Through his roles as UPike, Bailey said, he has enjoyed having the opportunity to meet new people in the community, as well as being a mentor for his students as they learn more about music.

"I think what I enjoy the most is seeing the students achieve more than what they think they could initially," Bailey said. "Watching them persevere, to see a challenge and then to overcome it, it's a very rewarding experience. Watching them engage with each other to create this beautiful thing we call music."

While teaching at the university level, Bailey said, he wants to help prepare his students for their futures by providing them with lessons that music can teach them, like promoting creativity, multitasking, working in a group setting and "bringing their A-game in their performances."



Trevor Bailey, UPike's new director of bands and faculty-in-residence, was recently recognized as the Dist. 9 College/University "Teacher of the Year" by the Kentucky Music Educators Association.

"I think what I enjoy the most is seeing the students achieve more than what they think they could initially. Watching them persevere, to see a challenge and then to overcome it, it's a very rewarding experience. Watching them engage with each other to create this beautiful thing we call music."



Order now for Christmas!

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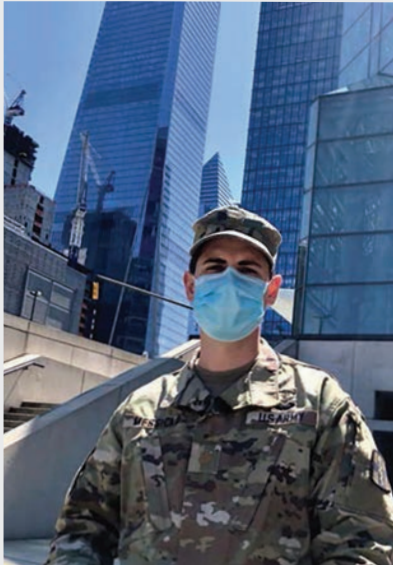
2nd Edition of Cookbook

The cookbook is available for purchase online at <http://www.northwesternstatealumni.com/ingoodtaste/> at a cost of \$25 with a \$3 shipping and handling fee. Proceeds will support scholarships for students.



Messick puts education and career experiences to the test while deployed to NYC

Major William Messick offered this first-hand account of his deployment to NYC during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. He is a 2006 graduate of NSU's ROTC program.



Maj. William Messick

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States, the 9th Hospital Center deployed to New York City in March 2020 in response at the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic that quickly overwhelmed their community. As part of the response, I deployed serving as the executive officer for an Army Role 3 Hospital communicating our medical capabilities to federal, military and civilian leaders as part of the request from the state of New York in concert with FEMA and HHS to integrate and coordinate ICU, ICW, surgical and military medical providers and professionals to the Department of Defense (DOD) COVID-19 response. The DOD is no stranger to combating diseases of epidemic and pandemic proportions. Military leaders throughout history have learned the hard way about the danger that disease poses to troops and on a society. From major epidemics of typhoid fever during the Spanish-American War to influenza and dysentery during World War I, all the losses prior to World War II, disease exceeded losses from battle injury.

As a 2006 alumnus from Northwestern State University and as a former medical intelligence analyst working for the National Center for Medical Intelligence, a foundational intelligence center within the Defense Intelligence Agency, the education I received from NSU and experiences garnered from NCMI were critical for the success of the DOD COVID-19 response mission. Working alongside great soldiers and civilians from across the country, our approach to the mission was not much different than any other deployment overseas. As part of the DOD's DSCA response to COVID-19, our short-notice

From opposite coasts, Sands, Arnold collaborate on "Noel, Alabama"

Susan Sands' latest book, "Noel, Alabama: A Christmas Romance," brought together two NSU graduates living on opposite coasts and cities to collaborate on details for the book.

Sands connected with Brad Arnold after 30 years, seeking help in making her latest release as authentic as possible.

"My newest book features a heroine who's a location manager for a Hollywood studio," Sands said. "I've been friends on Facebook with Brad, who was the NSU cheerleading coach. He's worked in Hollywood on many big films and television shows for years. Knowing this, I reached out to him for some help with details for my new book to make certain I got the terminology and setup right."

Sands graduated from NSU in 1989 with a B.S. in elementary education and now lives in Georgia. She met her husband, Doug Sands, who graduated with a physical education degree in 1989, also at NSU.

Arnold was an assistant director for 25 years on movies, commercials and music videos and is a member of the Director's Guild of America. He is now head of production for MOVO Cash. He lives in California with his wife and daughter.

"Susan's book revolves around a movie being shot in a small town. Susan wanted her depiction of the film industry to be accurate and she reached to me. I read her book and made suggestions based on my experience," he said.

Arnold, a former cheerleader at Louisiana Tech, was working for UCA when NSU reached out to the organization for help in building the cheer program. He mentioned that Jana Parker Lucky (1992, 2001) NSU's current director of Enrollment Management, was one of his cheerleaders. He earned a degree in general studies in 1988.

"Susan and I had some classes together and more recently became friends on social media," Arnold said. "She reached out to me from across the country for more specific, technical information and suggestions regarding the production of a film. I shared with her the different departments, who works for whom, the lingo, terms, types of trailers, etc., the general atmosphere of a movie set."

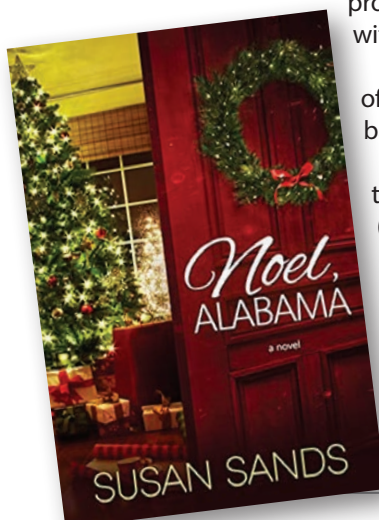
"Noel, Alabama" is available through SusanSands.com.



Susan Sands



Brad Arnold



deployment was in support of lead federal agencies and local government officials as part of the bigger national response allowing us to collaborate and integrate across multiple agencies and establishments employed in the JAVITS Convention Center and across NYC.

My experiences working with interagency partners throughout my military career, most notably the tradecraft I learned while attending NSU and at NCMI, allowed for better collaboration and integration with local, state, and federal agencies. Intelligence provided by national and international agencies leading up to the mission assignment prepared our formation for the response and provided much needed insight into what we would be up against. Taking care of each other was the mission keeping us laser-focused on saving lives. We were honored to have been afforded the opportunity to take care of US citizens. It was a rewarding experience knowing that we were helping our friends and families in communities to provide relief to affected areas throughout the US.

Returning from the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 9th Hospital Center returned to Fort Hood, Texas, where we were welcomed by our teammates, and released to reunite with our family members for the next 14 days to before returning to work preparing for the next mission.



9th HC Leadership. MAJ Messick, 2nd from the left last row.

Harper hopes nonprofit makes difference

This past July, Dr. Robert Harper introduced the Hope Initiative, a nonprofit that leverages support of former NFL football players and funding from the National Football League's social justice matching grant program, to help young people discover a ladder of success they can climb.

A native of Marietta, Texas, Harper has made a career of helping students navigate the transition from high school to college and careers. His non-profit focuses on helping underprivileged youth succeed in life. He introduced the Hope Initiative to the Linden, Texas, City Council, law enforcement and other civic leaders last summer and was met with enthusiasm.

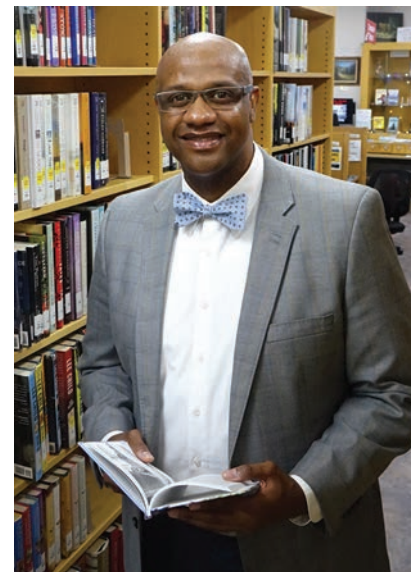
Harper, a 1996 graduate of Linden-Kildare schools, earned a basketball scholarship to LSU-Shreveport where he earned a degree in business administration in 2000. After working in the corporate world for two years, he attended graduate school at Northwestern State, where in 2003 he earned a master's degree in education with a focus on educational technology and a specialist's degree in educational leadership and instruction. He completed his Ed.D. at Grambling in 2008.

Harper's higher ed experience began with five years of employment with Northeast Texas Community College in Mount Pleasant, Texas. Then he became director of enrollment management at Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, Texas, and after one year was promoted to associate vice president for student services. Next was Texas College in Tyler, Texas, where he was assistant vice president for academic affairs for five years. His final college work was with Eastfield College in Mesquite, Texas, where he was dean for student engagement and retention.

Before long, Harper had the skills and insight to form the Hope Initiative, which would help him achieve his goal of aiding students on a larger scale.

He began working with schools, colleges, youth service programs and the National Football League, which by then had a foundation to fund social justice initiatives. In 2019, Hope Initiative partnered with 32 former NFL players to hold social justice programs across the country. After the program's successful start in 2019, this year required a change because of the COVID-19 virus. Still, nine former NFL players signed on to assist.

"I do this work over all the country, so now we can roll out the Hope Initiative for the youth here. Our students will engage in community service projects, work hand-in-hand with law enforcement, and if they leave this community, they will know how to properly engage with all the social justice issues they will face."



Dr. Robert Harper

Snowden named VP for Inclusion, Diversity

Dr. Michael Snowden was named vice president for Inclusion and Diversity at Northwestern State University June 25. A veteran administrator and student advocate in higher education with over 20 years of professional experience, Snowden will have a leadership role in creating and coordinating programs and initiatives that will lead to intensified recruitment of African American employees in prominent positions on the faculty and staff and minority students to provide expanded participation and leadership in student organizations and activities at the university.

Snowden is passionate about providing quality leadership in the inclusion space and he has been embraced by senior leadership at Northwestern State.

Snowden comes to NSU from McNeese State University where he served as chief diversity officer, ADA coordinator, Title IX coordinator and director of Office of Inclusive Excellence since 2011. In that role, he was responsible for establishing a strategic plan of operation for cultivating a campus culture that embraces diversity,

enables inclusion and provides equity to all campus constituents. At McNeese Snowden managed the development and implementation of the affirmative action plan, provided leadership of the university's equity and inclusion policies for employees with disabilities, anti-bullying, prohibition against retaliation, the Vets 100 report and other requirements related to Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) policies.

At McNeese, Snowden also managed Title IX administration and compliance with federal and state regulations, served as a diversity trainer for the campus, investigated complaints of discrimination and provided counsel to the president and upper administration. During his tenure he initiated a name change from Office of Equal Opportunity to Office of Inclusive Excellence and established equity and inclusion initiatives such as the Black Faculty Staff Council, Foundations Accounts for Black Faculty Staff Council Initiative, training partnership with DiversityEdu and Bias Incident Report Mechanism.

Snowden was a member of the 2019 University of Louisiana Management

and Leadership Institute and the 2013 Leadership Southwest Louisiana Class.

Prior to joining the staff at McNeese, Snowden

was director of Multicultural Affairs at Armstrong Atlantic State University (Georgia) from 1999-2011 where he promoted students' understanding of culture and heritage, educated the campus community on issues of diversity and multiculturalism and created avenues for students to gain understanding of their own culture and heritage. He also implemented the Minority Student Leadership Summit and programs for history focus months, including African American and Native American history.

Snowden served as educational coordinator at University of Minnesota Morris from 1997-99 and was a graduate assistant in the Office of Disability Services at the University of Southern Mississippi from 1994-97.



Dr. Michael Snowden

Legacy of serving as NSU ambassador passed from mother to son

Northwestern State University has a legacy ambassador this year. Christian Mitchell of Shreveport is following in the footsteps of his mom Treska Haley Mitchell, who was an ambassador from 1994-1999.

Christian is a graduate of Caddo Magnet majoring in biology.

"So far as an ambassador, we got to paint the town and we've been training to give tours to incoming students to NSU," he said. "I've really enjoyed the campus and all its faculty. I feel like NSU really attempts and succeeds at making the college experience feel personal and not like you're just another student."

Although the cancellation of athletics and other events due to COVID-19 was disappointing, Christian is making the best of the situation.

"During this time I will follow the proper procedures to make sure I don't contribute to the spread of COVID," he said. "I am really enjoying my time here."

"I can honestly say my four years at Northwestern State University were four of the best years," Treska said. "Northwestern definitely prepared me for my future. The relationships formed there have been ongoing. During my time there, I worked in the Admissions Office under Chris Maggio, the now Dr. Maggio, and Jana Lucky as a student ambassador. My assigned recruiter was Debi Cost. I still have connections with each of them now. I always joke about how I was beginning to write Debi Cost as my signature by mistake, because I was always signing letters in purple ink."

Treska was elated when Christian decided to attend NSU.

"I knew beyond a shadow of doubt that he would be in great hands. Northwestern is known for the personal touch of making students feel like family and not just a number at a university," she said.

Treska earned a degree in early childhood education and taught kindergarten for seven years. Christian was born during that time in 2002, and she spent three years teaching fourth and fifth grades. She was an assistant principal for five years, a principal for four years and is now an instructional coordinator in Caddo Parish.

"Ultimately, it would be a desire of mine to return to NSU as a faculty member to give back to the great place that gave me such a strong foundation. Fork 'em Demons!"



Christian Mitchell and Treska Haley Mitchell

NSU will host Greek Centennial Celebration

Northwestern State University will host a **Greek Centennial Celebration April 9-11, 2021**. All members of every fraternity and sorority chapter that has ever called NSU home is invited to join the celebration. The weekend celebration will include a riverbank festival, gala and All-Greek worship service.

Festivities will begin Friday, April 9 at Flavor of Louisiana, NSU's popular spring fund raiser and seafood extravaganza. Saturday's events will begin with a family-friendly Greek Riverbank Festival with designated areas for each decade of alumni and friends to visit and reconnect. Saturday evening will feature a semi-formal Greek Centennial Gala for alumni and current members of the Greek community to celebrate 100 years of tradition and leadership at NSU. Greek awards for chapters and individuals as well as recognition of the "100 for 100" recipients will take place. An ecumenical worship service and communion will take place on Sunday morning, April 11 to celebrate a century of brother- and sisterhood.

In conjunction, a Greek Centennial History Book will be available for purchase that will feature snapshots from 100 years of Greek life at Northwestern State and the "100 for 100" honorees. Those are 100 noteworthy individuals who over the last 100 years demonstrated their commitment to Greek life and Northwestern State University.

"These organizations provide valuable skills that students will need to be successful for life after college."

Organizers have also put together a Greek Leadership Fund that will assist in the development of leadership through project and program funding with student members.

Information on the celebration is available at <https://www.northwesternstatealumni.com/greeks100/>.

The roots of Greek life at NSU began with local sororities established in the early 1900s that took the form of literary societies. Only one used Greek letters as part of their name.



"They were short lived, being abolished in 1911 by newly appointed president V.L. Roy as he felt they were a distraction from the scholarly pursuits the students should be focused on at the then named Louisiana Normal School," said Shayne Creppel, director of Fraternal Leadership and Civic Engagement at NSU.

"According to campus lore, in 1921 a group of six young men established a Greek letter fraternity, Sigma Delta Tau," Creppel said. "The fraternity met off campus in secret for fear of notoriously strict President Roy finding out about

their group. The fraternity grew in size over the next few years and decided to seek approval from President Roy. The group hosted a banquet and invited the school president. He was so impressed with the quality of the men in the fraternity that he gave official recognition to the group in 1925. The following year the first

"Fraternities and sororities also help our students feel connected and provide a home away from home which is vital to college success."

national women's sorority was established at the school, Delta Sigma Epsilon. Delta Sigma Epsilon was later absorbed by Delta Zeta national sorority and Sigma Delta Tau became affiliated with the national fraternity Sigma Tau Gamma. This 1921 establishment of Sigma Delta Tau is viewed as the beginning of Greek Life at NSU as we now know it and a century of leadership and tradition."

Creppel said Greek life is more relevant today than ever.

"These organizations provide valuable skills that students will need to be successful for life after college. Many of our most dedicated and engaged alumni credit their fraternity and sorority experience as a key component to their success after graduating from NSU," he said. "Fraternities and sororities also help our students feel connected and provide a home away from home which is vital to college success. Students who are engaged and feel connected do better in college and are more likely to graduate. We feel that there is a place for every student in fraternity and sorority life at NSU."



REFER A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT TO OUR STUDENT PRIORITY LIST

Do you know a high school student or possible transfer or graduate student that would be a great addition to our Demon Family? We now have a referral form setup to help add future Demons to our priority student list at NSU. Now that recruiting is mostly taking place virtually, we want to make sure we don't miss anyone along the way. Go to the link below to refer a Demon to the Recruiting Office, and we follow up immediately.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NSUreferral>

Kilcoyne Professorship will help COB&T continue to grow

As Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne wrapped up her career at Northwestern State University, her objective was clear. She still wanted to keep doing all she can to help the College of Business and Technology and NSU continue to grow.

Kilcoyne, the dean of the College of Business and Technology, retired in August after a successful 34-year career. In her honor, the Dean Margaret S. Kilcoyne Endowed Professorship in Business was been established through the NSU Foundation. Donations totaling \$80,000 will be matched with \$20,000 from the Board of Regents to create a permanent \$100,000 endowment that will support the work of a faculty member in the College of Business and Technology. A fund raising drive began on her birthday, June 12.

Kilcoyne was interim dean from July of 2015 until she was appointed dean in July of 2017. Throughout her time at NSU, she has had a reputation as a faculty member who would take extra time to assist students as they worked toward a degree.

Kilcoyne was hired as an adjunct instructor in 1986 with what was perhaps a unique challenge.

“(NSU President) Dr. (Robert) Alost told me and Dr. Walter Creighton if I wanted a job, I needed to create it,” said Kilcoyne. “We did by writing a five-year, \$1,000,000 federal grant for cooperative education.”

That cooperative education program was the forerunner of the Experiential Learning Program now used throughout Northwestern State. Kilcoyne has also enhanced the College of Business and Technology by offering Continuing Legal Education to area attorneys and Continuing Education Units to accountants under the direction of faculty member Dr. Carmella Parker.

A major accomplishment of Kilcoyne’s time as dean was her support and facilitation of the establishment of a master’s program in computer information systems, the first graduate program in the College in at least 30 years.

Under her leadership the School of Business maintained its AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) accreditation. She developed an effective system which allowed all faculty to research, collect data and write a portion of the accreditation report. Kilcoyne has been an active researcher throughout her career. She has enhanced the reputation of the School of Business through presentations at state, national and international conferences, winning several prestigious research awards.

Kilcoyne has played an important role in Northwestern’s development efforts by establishing the Brooke and Clay Hennigan Endowed Scholarship in memory of her daughter and son to assist current and future students. The Hennigan scholarship has led to the establishment of additional scholarships at NSU.

For more information on the Dean Margaret S. Kilcoyne Endowed Professorship in Business, contact Director of Development Jill Bankston at (318) 357-4241 or at bankstonj@nsula.edu.



Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne

Daily continues support of NSU Foundation

Natchitoches businessman and long-time supporter Shawn Daily returned a portion of dollars he earned teaching as holder of the Charles Ragus Endowed Chair in Business at Northwestern State University by donating it back to the NSU Foundation to support the Shawn and Linnye Daily Endowed Scholarship, along with a portion to support the Columns Fund. Daily, an Edward Jones financial advisor in Natchitoches, created his named scholarship for students majoring in business, finance, accounting, marketing or related fields. Daily has taught classes in NSU’s School of Business for many years and supported many university events. Mr. and Mrs. Daily are long-time platinum underwriters of the Natchitoches-Northwestern Symphony Society and supported NSU’s two main spring fund raisers, Flavor of Louisiana and the Dragon Boat Races. He has also served as chapter advisor and financial advisor to NSU’s Beta Omicron chapter of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity.



From left are Director of Development Jill Bankston, CFRE; Daily and Assistant Director of Donor Relations Erin Dupree.

#GIVINGTUESDAY™ Exceeds Expectation

The Northwestern State University Foundation raised \$52,671 during the Giving Tuesday event that began Tuesday, June 16 and concluded on June 18, the birthday of NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio. “We exceeded our goal of \$25,000,” said Director of Development Jill Bankston, CFRE. Dollars raised were designated to go towards the President’s Priorities, which included the NSU Coronavirus Assistance Fund, the Columns Fund and the Dr. Robert Alost Memorial Scholarship. Other significant donations were designated to go towards the John G. Williams Memorial Scholarship, the Wes Rollo Memorial Fishing Scholarship, the Margaret Kilcoyne Professorship and to assist academic departments on campus. The John G. Williams Memorial Scholarship is dedicated to a student in the College of Business. A new scholarship has also been established in memory of Terry Edmund Edwards. More information is forthcoming.

Hurricane Relief



Student athletes responded to a call to collect supplies for those affected by Hurricane Laura by donating canned goods, water, hygiene supplies, clean-up kits and other items that were delivered to southwest Louisiana. Above left are men's basketball players C.J. Jones, Trenton Massner, Carvell Teasett, Jamaure Gregg, Kendal Coleman, Dalin Williams, Jovan (Eden) Zelenbaba, Rovert Chougkaz, Larry Owens, Jordan Potts, LaTerrance Reed, Jairus Roberson, Chance Williams, Brian White, Tyron McCoy, Keith Williams, Parker Bankston and Gavin Smith. At right are Isabella Hudson, women's track and field/cross country; Dalin Williams, men's basketball, and Cayla Jones, softball.

McCord named 2020 Louis Bonnette Sports Media Award winner

Broadcaster Carley McCord was named the recipient of the Southland Conference's prestigious Louis Bonnette Sports Media Award. The announcement was made July 21 by Southland Conference Commissioner Tom Burnett in advance of the league's annual football media kickoff event.

McCord served as co-host for Southland Football and Basketball Media Day shows on ESPN platforms, where her effervescent personality shone through in interviews with coaches and student-athletes. She also worked as a sideline reporter for a number of Southland football games on ESPN and Cox Sports Television. McCord was a member of the sports team for WDSU in New Orleans and was an in-game host for the Saints and Pelicans.

McCord received the award posthumously as she was tragically killed in a plane crash in December 2019 at age 30. She is the first female recipient since the award was established in 2012.

"Carley was an accomplished broadcast professional and a great friend that will be missed by everyone in the Southland Conference," Burnett said. "She was a very proud alum of Northwestern State, but she cared dearly for all Southland schools. That was always reflected in her diligent preparation for every telecast as she presented herself and her on-camera work always in the best manner. She is most deserving of the Bonnette Sports Media Award."

McCord got her start in the Southland Conference as an undergraduate student Northwestern State University. The Baton Rouge native was a member of Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority and was named Miss Lady of the Bracelet in 2010. Northwestern State established a scholarship in her name that will help fund the education of a woman wishing to pursue a career in sports journalism, like McCord.

Named after longtime McNeese sports information director Louis Bonnette, the award is presented annually to an individual that has made outstanding contributions in the field of sports information, print journalism, broadcasting or other media focused on the Southland Conference and/or its member institutions. The Southland's sports information directors, athletic directors and other university personnel, and outside media executives nominate individuals for the award, and the sports information directors make the final selection.

Doug Ireland (1986), former NSU sports information director, received the award in 2016.

NATCHITOCHES
WHERE HISTORY LIVES

The City of Natchitoches has planned a list of downtown events tentative for the fall. Events are subject to change or postponement due to COVID-19 health protocols. It is strongly recommended that visitors call the Natchitoches Main Street Office at (318) 352-2746 to verify that each event will take place as scheduled.

October 29
Pumpkin Glow (Tentative)

October 31
Witch Way to Main Street (Tentative)

November 21
Turn on the Holidays
The official start of the Christmas Season and turning on of the lights.

November 21 - January 6
Natchitoches Christmas Season
www.natchitocheschristmas.com

In Memory

1941 – Major General Erbon Wise
(Retired), Aug. 12, 2020, Sulphur

1942 – Ferne Eugenia Sullivan Turner,
June 14, 2020, Saint Maries,
Idaho

1947 – Sister Ann Carmel, Grace Maggio,
July 4, 2020, San Antonio, Texas

1952, 1956 – Dr. Bettie C. Stanislaw,
April 18, 2020, Bozeman,
Montana

1954 – Thomas Joseph Broussard Sr.

1957 – Olive Ann Willis, June 22, 2020,
Winnfield

1957, 1966 – Nathaniel D. Smith,
June 29, 2020, Rayville

1957 – Virginia Childress Spencer,
Sept. 13, 2020, Fayetteville,
Arkansas

1958 – Edwin Andrew “Jack” Freeman,
July 28, 2020, Tullos

1958 – William “Don” McFerrin, Sept. 14,
2020, Fresno, California

1960 – Thomas Ellington Lewis,
Oct. 31, 2019, Shreveport

1960 – Truman Maynard, July 3, 2020,
Natchitoches

1962 – Melvin Wendell Cox, June 16,
2020, Tupelo, Mississippi

1962 – Donald Wayne Wilkins, June 30,
2020, Spring Hill, Tennessee

1962 – James Glen Myers,
Aug. 31, 2020, Pelican

1963 – Ann Clark Tyner, Aug. 3, 2020,
New Braunfels, Texas

1963 – Jeannie Houser Taylor,
Aug. 29, 2020, Arkadelphia,
Arkansas

1965 – Terry Edwards, Aug. 11, 2020,
Baton Rouge

1967 – Alice Massey Rachal,
June 27, 2020, Campti

1969 – Robert “Bob” Koll, Aug. 24, 2020,
Natchitoches

1969 – Margaret Ann “Peggy” Purcell
Lambard, July 12, 2020,
Haughton

1980 – Marjory Jean Todtenbier,
June 22, 2020, Gainesville,
Georgia

1982 – Kenneth L. Hix, Sept. 20, 2020,
Lafayette

1982 – Missy Touns Hix, Sept. 20, 2020,
Lafayette

1983 – Philip Ackel, Sept. 20, 2020,
Natchitoches

1983 – Pauline Soileau Ackel, Sept. 20,
2020, Natchitoches

1983 – Janette Weeks Peterson,
July 3, 2020, Brewton’s Mill

1983 – William F. “Willie” Rush,
July 20, 2020, Cypress, Texas

1997 – David Zuber, Aug. 16, 2020,
Bossier City

2007 – Stephen Weston White,
Sept. 14, 2020, Natchitoches

2012 – Kris Copeland, July 5, 2020,
Biloxi, Mississippi

Dr. George Adams, Natchitoches-
Northwestern Symphony Society
Music Director (1991-99),
July 1, 2020, Pocatello, Idaho

Dorothy Wallen Eielson, June 11, 2020,
Nashville, Tennessee

Ruth Carmen Courtney McNabb,
June 6, 2020, Bunkie

Michael Jude Thibodeaux,
June 19, 2020, Gueydan

Kelley James McFarlain Sr.,
March 24, 2020, Houston

Bradley Allen Fontenot, June 20, 2020,
Eunice

Alma Louise Carter Gros, July 6, 2020,
Natchitoches

Elsie Lucille Roberts Taylor,
July 25, 2020, Natchitoches

Benny Wayne Long, July 17, 2020,
Winnfield

Paul Joseph Ribaudo Jr., Aug. 6, 2020,
Alexandria

ENVELOPE

The Columns Funds - Annual Giving

The Northwestern State University Foundation is committed to excellence in providing educational and cultural resources, and fostering economic development in our region.

Contributors to the Columns Fund provide funding for many programs and projects with their annual unrestricted, tax-deductible contributions. During this time of extreme budget cuts and economic challenges, the Columns Fund is even more crucial to the continued success of Northwestern State. By contributing to the Columns Fund, using the envelope provided in this magazine, you have the opportunity to make a significant impact on Northwestern State’s future and make a meaningful investment in our student’s success.

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go to nsula.edu/columnsfund/ to donate today.

Where Your Money Goes 2019-2020



Looking Back

A front page story on the Sept. 18, 1970, issue of the Current Sauce announced the school's name change from Northwestern State College to Northwestern State University.

"Northwestern's 86th year opens this fall with many new benefits for the student body, bringing them a university status, new buildings, improvement of older buildings and projects for Showcase 70.

The first attempt to make Northwestern a university in 1969 failed when a legislative bill was vetoed by the governor. The bill was referred to the State Board of Education and later signed into law June 18, 1970."

More than 2,000 freshmen reported to the NSU campus that fall, welcomed by Purple Jackets Christi Conine and Cynthia Phillips, pictured.



Guess Who



The 1975 Potpourri featured that academic year's Mr. and Miss NSU. Mr. NSU was a member of Who's Who, Blue Key, NAACP, Student Body Association, ROTC, Student Union Governing Board, Beta Beta Beta and Omega Psi Phi. Miss NSU was a member of the State Fair Court, Homecoming Court, Winter Ball Court, Who's Who, Student Body Association, Pi Omega Pi, Purple Jackets, Davis Players, NAACP and Alpha Kappa Alpha. Can you name them?

Send answers to jacksonl@nsula.edu and include your city of residence and year of graduation.



The Summer Alumni Columns featured this photo of three musicians practicing during their spare time. They were Chris Brown, Michael Gibson and Daniel Collins. (The Potpourri misidentifies Gibson as Daniel Templet but readers were quick to correct the error.)

Those who guessed correctly are as follows.

Cole LeMay (2002), Morgan City
Christopher Brown (2002), Katy, Texas
Daniel Collins (2003), Virginia Beach, Virginia
Aaron Zeller (2002, 2007), Maybank, Texas
(He noted his wife Erica graduated in 2009.)
Kelly Watkins (2000), Old Lyme, Connecticut
Laura Lewis (2000), Cold Spring, Kentucky
Ryan Dugas, (2000), Wylie, Texas

Class of 2024

New Student Convocation took a different format for the Class of 2024 with the event taking place in Turpin Stadium to better enable social distancing. Despite the changes, the traditions associated with Convocation continued as new students were introduced to deans and department heads, heard motivational speakers and learned Demon traditions to kick off the Fall 2020 semester. Convocation marks the beginning of each student's academic journey, which concludes with graduation.

